

These are, after all, the de facto U.S. national identity cards, whether we choose to refer to them that way, or not.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the complete text of the article be included in the record, and I commend its reading to my colleagues.

TIME TO OVERHAUL THE DRIVERS' LICENSE

This commonplace piece of plastic has by default become the national identification card. Adding readily available advanced technology, such as integrated-circuit chips, can make it more reliable for a post-9/11 world—and pave the way for chip-based payment cards, to boot, says Joel Lisker.

What is the most valuable piece of paper/plastic in your possession? One that can have a huge impact on the quality of your life; maybe even save your life. Is it your health-care Card? Social Security card? Medicare card? Credit card? Nope. It's that little piece of low-end plastic with your photo and a few personal details issued by your State Department of Motor Vehicles, in hundreds of versions, with a variety of features.

The few standards that do apply to these cards have been deliberately set at the low end for reasons of cost, because in fairness, not too long ago, the drivers' license was just that. As a consequence, operational quality, functionality, security, consistency, and currency vis-à-vis state-of-the-art technology have not been factors. Yet now, these are the very cards that increasingly say with authority who we are, and, most important, that we are who we say we are.

In fact, the ubiquitous, poorly designed and equally poorly crafted drivers' license is the de facto national identity card. But we need something better—and urgently. Why?

In the aftermath of 9/11, government at every level has struggled with the challenges generated by the life-or-death need to make us more secure—no easy task. Several meaningful steps have been taken, but what is lacking, at the core, is a single, self-authenticating piece of identification upon which authorities may rely. So what's the problem? The problem in a word is reliability. The drivers' license has become the primary means of identification that government has come to regard as reliable at a time when counterfeit and fraudulent applications are rampant.

For example, we may question the abilities of the Transportation Security Administration and now private screeners to authenticate drivers' licenses, given that they are called upon to examine hundreds of different licenses on any given shift.

I submit that several excellent solutions now exist that can be implemented, without adding great cost to already strained state and federal budgets. Some of these solutions, if applied in volume to drivers' licenses, would have the added benefit of creating economies of scale for chip-based payment cards in North America.

CATCHING FRAUD

Let's examine a relevant private-sector initiative. Most banks submit all new U.S. credit card applications to a database to check prior use of key data elements. Two of those elements are the Social Security number (SSN) and address. I envision a similar database of all license holders and applicants that would also contain these two data elements. These could be compared with an SSN/current-address file maintained by the Social Security Administration, kept current based on information furnished by the Internal Revenue Service and contained on the Form 1040.

When a criminal steals a Social Security number, he will always use an address different from that of the true account holder. This process would catch most of the cases of

attempted fraud while revealing no other 1040 information. A follow-up mailing to the address listed would confirm that a license using that address had been issued.

The drivers' license itself need's work. For example, it can now be enhanced using readily available and very secure integrated-circuit technology, in use in some markets by the payment card companies, combined with optical memory card technology, now in use on all U.S. permanent resident or "green" cards, Southern Border-crossing cards, Canadian "green" cards, and an increasing number of Canadian drivers licenses.

In fact, these technologies would permit the security screener to simply swipe or insert the license in a secure reader, the same as a credit card, thereby allowing for authentication of the document as validly issued and currently in force. It could not be effectively copied or skimmed.

Thus, not only could the card be authenticated, but, by using biometric information such as that derived from fingerprints, a validation of the cardholder could also be achieved while protecting the privacy of the licensee's data stored on the card in their possession. This process would be far superior to the current "hit or miss" system, which depends entirely on the ability of the TSA Screener to discern a false document.

BEWARE THAT CELL PHONE

This optical-memory card approach, with up to 2.8 megabytes of data per card, would allow for all 10 fingerprints, an iris template, facial template, or just about anything else you might want. This would be entirely consistent with the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission contained in Section 12.4 of its report. Moreover, the deployment of the IC feature of the new drivers license, numbering more than 100 million units, would pave the way for the rapid deployment of a financial payments industry IC card, on a very cost-effective basis. How would government support the additional costs associated with some of the enhancements described here? I submit that a modest increase in the cost of the drivers' license would more than cover this expense. The TSA portion, which would result from the deployment of card-reading terminals at each point of access, could be funded with a modest tax on each airline ticket, one that most air travelers would gladly pay.

To those who would argue against such enhancements on the grounds that they will bring us closer to the dreaded "national identification card," allowing the tentacles of government to slither even more deeply into our lives and privacy, I say this: You better take another look at that GPS cell phone of yours. And what about that OnStar service or EZ Pass? Your ATM Card?

The drivers' license, in its present form is a seriously flawed de facto national identification card. We have cost-effective, proven, secure technologies at hand. Let's use them.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALBERT J. LEWIS, JR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of Dr. Albert J. Lewis, Jr., founder and CEO of the World Gospel Musical Association. Dr. Lewis was inducted into the International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and

Museum at an awards celebration dinner on Saturday, October 23, 2004, in Detroit, Michigan.

A resident of the city of Newark, New Jersey, Dr. Lewis is a minister of music at two churches and plays for six choirs. He is a certified social worker, notary public and director/chaplain for the United Chaplain Worldwide Outreach International. He is also the executive producer and host of the Dr. A. Lewis Gospel Hour and the Sound of Gospel and Good News. These programs are shown nationally and internationally via the USA Armed Forces Network.

Dr. Lewis attended the Newark Deliverance Bible Institute and completed the course requirements in 1964. He continued his education at Eastern Bible Institute of New Jersey and received bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees in theology and Christian psychology.

Dr. Lewis is the recipient of many awards and commendations and had the honor of having a street named after him. In June 2002, Dr. Lewis was appointed Musical Director for the State of New Jersey by Governor James E. McGreevey.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Lewis' fellow inductees included some of gospel music's most noted performers. They are the Rev. Milton Biggum, Anna Crockett Ford, Donnie McClurkin, Bill Moss and the Celestials, Joseph Niles, the O'Neal Twins and Ce Ce Winans. I urge my colleagues to commend Dr. Lewis for this most deserving recognition.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2986, INCREASING THE PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to S. 2986, which would increase our Nation's debt limit by \$800 billion. This irresponsible legislation shortsightedly gives Congress carte blanche to run up the deficit with no plan to get our budget back in balance. If this measure is signed into law, the real losers are future generations of Americans, who will be stuck with the bill for many years to come.

This bill would raise the debt limit for the third time in just as many years, including a record \$984 billion increase in May 2003. That addition alone was larger than the entire national debt accrued by the United States from our founding in 1776 all the way to 1980.

Today's legislation would allow the national debt to reach a staggering \$8.18 trillion. This thirteen digit amount is 70 percent of the size of our economy. As Senator BYRD noted in a recent floor statement, "To count a trillion dollars, at the rate of \$1 per second, would take 32,000 years." Should S. 2986 pass, counting to our debt limit would take more than eight times as long.

Most alarming is the Administration's refusal to admit that the ballooning budget deficit is a problem. Despite the President's campaign promise to cut the deficit in half, next year's deficit will likely to be even larger than this year's due to commitments abroad as well as the President's promises to privatize Social

Security while funding homeland security needs and reforming the Tax Code.

For fiscal year 2004, taxpayers owed \$322 billion in interest alone. I hope my constituents realize that the first \$2,000 of their taxes will not go towards better schools, roads, health care or defense. Rather, this sum is just one in a series of increasing interest payments they will make because this administration chose to forgo fiscal responsibility in favor of tax cuts for a few privileged Americans.

We need to restore fiscal responsibility to this Congress by reinstating meaningful Pay-As-You-Go rules. Just as a family must plan its budget for the next year, ensuring that expenses do not exceed income, Congress must create a balanced budget to avoid adding even more debt in the future.

I will be voting for the responsible Stenholm Motion to Recommit, which would extend the debt ceiling until April 15, 2005, when next year's budget is due. Unless Congress puts pressure on ourselves, we will never balance the budget. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Stenholm Motion to Recommit and oppose final passage of S. 2986.

HONORING NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, November is National Diabetes Awareness Month. During this month, fifty-nine state and territorial diabetes-control programs, other partners, and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) are highlighting their efforts to battle this wide spread disease.

Throughout November, these organizations will bring a special focus on: (1) diabetes prevention, (2) pneumonia and pneumococcal vaccinations, and (3) the unique problems endured by women with diabetes.

Currently, an estimated 17 million of our fellow citizens suffer with diabetes and the disease is becoming ever more common in our country. From 1980 through 2002, the number of Americans with diabetes more than doubled. Many of its victims are our most vulnerable—people aged 65 years or older—who account for almost 40 percent of the diabetes population.

Medical research has proven that certain types of diabetes can be delayed or prevented by keeping blood glucose at healthy levels through eating right and staying active. Nevertheless, many of the most susceptible to diabetes remain unaware of these simple prevention methods.

For women, diabetes poses a particularly serious health conditions during all their life stages. It is most troublesome that diabetes can affect the health of pregnant women and her unborn children. Additionally, with the increasing life span of women and the rapid growth of minority populations in the United States, the number of women at high risk for diabetes and its complications continues to increase. This will place added demands on the health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a serious disease that affects millions of our citizens. In many instances it is preventable—and we hope, ulti-

mately, curable. Diabetes deserves our attention at all times of year, but during this month of November, it deserves our special focus. I encourage members to join the Diabetes Caucus which helps educate and promote current diabetes programs.

IN MEMORY OF 2LT JEFFREY GRAHAM

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham. On February 19, 2004, 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Graham made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while serving in Iraq. The work of our young men and women in the armed services is vital for the safety and security of our Nation. The death of 2nd Lt. Graham is a true loss to the United States. I salute his dedication while serving in the 1st Battalion 34th Armor, the 1st Infantry Division of the Army. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all those who loved him.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DENNIS MAES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dennis Maes, the Chief Judge of the Pueblo, Colorado, District Court. Dennis is a man of strong convictions whose upbringing and sense of dignity permeates his courtroom and ensures that the citizens of Pueblo receive fair consideration in the cases brought before his court. It is my privilege in recognizing Judge Maes' outstanding record of service before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Judge Maes was born in Trinidad and grew up in Walsenburg, Colorado where he was the eldest of eleven children. His father Leo Maes served five terms as Mayor of Walsenburg and championed issues affecting the Hispanic community. Dennis' parents taught him the value of a good education and instilled in him the idea that a community can only be as viable and credible as its citizens.

Judge Maes graduated from Colorado State University at Pueblo in 1967 and immediately accepted a teaching position with Gardner Middle School. Dennis was driven to continue his education and attended the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, Colorado. During his studies, Judge Maes was involved in the movement to bring equal rights to Hispanic Americans and advancing the civil rights agenda. After completing his law degree Dennis, returned to Pueblo working in the Pueblo County Legal Services, and the public defender's office before his appointment as Chief Judge of Colorado's 10th Judicial District by Governor Roy Romer in 1995.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Maes is a dedicated judge who has made fairness and moral conviction the center of his life. The citizens of the Pueblo community have been blessed by his

leadership for twenty-two years and I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his impeccable record of service. Thank you for your service Dennis and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—THE HONORABLE CAROLYN MCCARTHY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on November 18, 2004, I missed rollcall vote No. 534 due to surgery. Rollcall vote 534 was on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 856.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 534.

NICARAGUAN PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLAÑOS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw your attention to an event in Latin America that underscores the region's instability and warrants international attention. Over the last few months highly-regarded Nicaraguan President Enrique Bolaños has been fighting for his political survival as charges of corruption against him have led to calls for his impeachment.

During Bolaños' three years in office he has proven himself a capable and popular leader, unafraid to fight against corruption within his government. The president and his supporters allege that Constitutionalist Liberal Party (PLC) leader Arnoldo Aleman, currently imprisoned for corruption, and Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Daniel Ortega reached a political agreement to oust Bolaños from power, secure their parties' control of key political institutions and gain eventual amnesty for Alemán, a former Nicaraguan president.

While Ortega has recently changed his mind and announced that his party will not pursue impeachment, the Sandinistas and the PLC are continuing efforts severely limit Bolaños' presidential powers. Efforts to remove or reduce his presidential prerogatives can only undermine the democratically-elected president and have little to no constitutional basis. They also go against the will of the people, the majority of whom have pledged their full support to their embattled head of state, putting democracy in Nicaragua in jeopardy. Since the Nicaraguan president has little political support in the National Assembly and the opposition controls key democratic institutions, the international community must actively involve itself to ensure the nation's democracy.

The following research memorandum about Nicaragua's crisis was authored by Research Associate David R. Kolker with additional research provided by Research Fellow Alex Sánchez, both of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA). Founded in 1975, COHA is an independent,